

THE
ACE
NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 1998

THE VOICE OF CHRISTMAS

The Only Pirate Station Broadcasting From The North Pole!



Dear _____, The *PIRATE ELF* is happy to QSL our
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DIALOGS

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E-mail: <JoeFLIPS@aol.com> (401) 736-8826

- LATE LOGS -

Blind Faith Radio: Oct. 19-0422-0449, 6955U (RTJ, TX good)
KORN: Oct. 18-0318-0400, 6955U (JS, NE 333)
KORN: Oct. 19-0316-0322, 6955U (JS, NE)
Microdot Radio: Oct. 19-0106-0136*, 6950.1U (GZ, OH 353+), (LS OH 353 PLS QSL)
Mystery Radio: Oct. 18-0402-0441, 6955U (JS, NE 333)
Mystery Radio: Oct. 19-0340-0420, 6955U (RTJ, TX fair)
New Voice of Purple Pumpkin: Oct. 18-0003-0047*, 6954.8AM (GZ, OH 353), (RC, MA 444)
Partial India Radio: Oct. 17-0035-0058, 6955U, (LS, OH 354) (JS, NE 211)
Partial India Radio: Oct. 18-0258-0347, 6955U, (RTJ, TX) (JS, NE 333)
Partial India Radio: Oct. 19-0055-0127, 6955U, (LS, OH 353)
Partial India Radio: Oct. 19-0127-0136*, 6955U (JS, NE 322)
Radio Free Euphoria: Oct. 19-0028-0106*, 6950.1U (GZ, OH 353)
Radio Free Euphoria: Oct. 19-0044-0104, 6.950.06U (SM, OK)
Radio Free Speech: Oct. 18-1300-1329, 6955AM PLS QSL (LS, OH 353)
Radio Free Speech: Oct. 18-2100-2123, 6955AM PLS QSL (LS, OH 353)
Radio Goon: Oct. 13-0214-0300*, 6955.6AM (MP, NY 454)
Radio Metallica Worldwide: Oct. 17-1948-2031* 7415AM (DK, OH 433)
Radio Nonsense: Oct. 16-0142*-0150* 6955U (JS, NE 222)
Radio One: Oct. 17-2324-2331* 6950AM (DK, OH 444)
Shortwave Relay Service: Oct. 17-1916-1948, 11.469.96 (RC, MA 343)
WFPR: Oct. 16-0216*-0219*, 6954.8U (JS, NE 222 PLS QSL)
WFPR: Oct. 17-0208*-0228, 6954.9U (JS, NE 222 PLS QSL)
WKND: Oct. 18-2157-2256* and *2257-0028*, 6954.8AM (GZ, OH 353), (LS, OH 444)
WKND: Oct. 18/19-2312-0028*, 6954.8AM, (MP, NY 343) (JS, NE)
WMPR: Oct. 17-2307-2324*, 6955.4AM (GZ, OH 454+)
WNCR: Oct. 16-0154-0214, 6955U (LS, OH 253)
WNCR?: Oct. 17-0200-0230, 6955U (LS, OH 253)
Voice of the Pig's Ear: Oct. 16-2215-2222, 6955U (LS, OH 333)
Voice of the Pig's Ear: Oct. 18-0145-0214 6955U (LS, OH 253) (JS, NE 434 PLS QSL)

- FROM ACROSS THE POND -

Laser Hot Hits- Merlin, Ontario

Nov. 1 0342-0420, 6219 AM. Best in lower side band because of QRM from a jammer on 6220;
playing oldies by Jethro Tull, Three Dog Night & Suzie Quatro; gave Merlin maildrop address; lots of
IDs and jingles. (NW, ONT Pr)

Shortwave Relay Service- Wuppertal, Germany

Nov. 1 1643-1705, 21450 USB. pop music, jingles, echo-effects, gave ID's, at 1700, NICE ID for
SWRS & Voice of South Dublin. Signal kept fading in/out, By 1800 hrs. was gone. (EK Alberta
3/2;4;2/3)

Radio Titanic International- Wuppertal, Germany

Nov. 1 0007-0040, 6980 LSB. Special Halloween BCB with Capt. Smith. QRM from UTE &
RFPI(6975) Gone by 0110 hrs. (EK, Alberta 3/4;3;3)

- NORTH AMERICA - SHORTWAVE -

Blind Faith Radio- blindfaithradio@yahoo.com

Oct. 24 0457-0458*, 6955 USB. Dr. Naplam closing show. (MP, SD 222 PLS QSL)

Oct. 25 1808-1837, 6955 USB. Unknown rock mx, OM gave stn ID & e-mail address for QSLs. (JF,
RI 242) (BF, PA Wk PLS QSL)

Nov. 1 2142-2148 6955USB. Started out strong, said had technical problems at 2148 & would return later. (LS, OH 353 PLS QSL) (BF, PA Strg)

Nov. 7 *0546-0555, 6955USB. Dr. Napalm on w/Doors mx & slogan "Before the FCC comes knockin', we'll keep rockin'," probably also was this stn I heard a little prior to playing Doors mx from 0534 to 0545* (SA, OK)

Betty Boop Radio- Providence, RI

Oct. 31-1852-1938*, 6955 USB. "Halloween" by The Dead Kennedy's, some Betty tunes. (JF, RI 242) (NW, ONT Gd) (MH, SC 242) (BF, PA Fr) (JS, NE 222)

Deliverance Radio- QSL Information Unknown

Nov. 15 0124-0131, 6955 USB. The Inbred Banjo Boy and the Pig Squealer Boy with a show of taunts to the FCC and of course "Dueling Banjos" and pig squealing. (MH, SC 242) (GM, CT 131)

Jerry Rigged Radio- Providence, RI

Nov. 1-*0000-0036, 6955 USB. Halloween show with a seance and Werewolves howling. (GM, CT 434) (MH, SC 444) (LS, OH 252) (BF, PA)

KVOH- Blue Ridge Summit, PA

Nov. 1-0410-0431, 6955 LSB. Said broadcasting from abandoned fireworks stand....bit from classic "war of the worlds" bdcst. (JR, VA 333) (BF, PA Ex)

Mystery Radio- Stoneham, MA

Oct. 25-0448-0532, 6955. Spooky mx- said welcome to night of Horrors/Terror. Instrumental mx. (BF, PA Wk) (JS, NE 433+)

Night of Fire- QSL Information Unknown

Nov. 8 0204-0207*, 6955U. Excerpts from a narration aired, gave Belfast address & ID (EK Alberta 3;4;3/2) (GM, CT 131 PSE QSL)

Partial India Radio- Stoneham, MA

Oct. 25 *2109-2155*, 6955 USB. Replay of most recent show, off quick. (JF, RI 343) (GM, CT 434) (LS, OH 252) (DK, OH 333)

Radio Blue Star- QSL Information Unknown

Nov. 1 0712-0848, 6295.5 AM. Mx included "On the Wings of a Nightingale" and "Vio Conditos". (JR, VA 111)

Radio Bob Communications Net (RBCN) - Lula, GA

Oct. 28 0156-0220, 6955 USB. Talked about new maildrop/ACE/returning from retirement. (EK, Alberta 343)

Oct. 30 2239-2316*, 6945 USB. Dating Game parody; gave Georgia address; QRM from fishermen. (NW, ONT Fr) (MH, SC 444) (DK, OH 555)

Oct. 31 0159*-0230*, 6955USB. 93 Halloween show with Star Trek. (GM, CT 333) (NW, ONT Fr) (EK, Alberta 2/3;4;2/3) (RC, MA 332) (MP, SD 121 PLS QSL) (JS, NE 333)

Nov. 1 2340-0009, 6955USB. Halloween 1993 program (LS, OH 353) (MP, SD 222 PLS QSL) (BF, PA Gd) (JS, NE 434)

Nov. 2 2337-0009*, repeat of 93 Halloween show. (EK, Alberta 343) (JS, NE 434)

Radio Eurogeek- Providence, RI

Oct. 24 1748*-1842*, 11092.5USB. 3rd annual broadcast with Charles Putz, w/promotion for FRW (EK, Alberta 454) (GZ, OH 242) (DK, OH) (MP, SD 222 Good Show) (JS, NE 434 Excellent Program)

Oct. 24 *2319-2321*, 11092.5USB. Charles Putz with announcement of no broadcast due to an extended broadcast of Radio St. Helenia. (EK, Alberta) (JF, RI 344) (MP, SD 444)

Radio Free Speech- Belfast, NY

Oct. 24 1149-1231, 6955AM. Impeach Clinton, Out of Retirement repeat (LS, OH 454, PLS QSL Silvi & 3 sons) (DK, OH 555) (BF, PA Wk PLS QSL)

Oct. 24 2059-2110, 6955.1 AM. Replay of the Halloween show. (JF, RI 333) (BF, PA Wk PLS QSL) Oct. 30 0015-0029, 6955AM, Halloween program (LS, OH 353, PLS QSL SILVI and 3 sons) (BF, PA Wk PLS QSL)

Oct. 31 2255-2307, 6955 AM. Bill O' Rights with a Halloween show including a story in Spanish. (GM, CT 333) (JF, RI 444) (MH, SC 343) (BF, PA Wk, PLS QSL)

Radio Halloween- Belfast, NY

Oct. 29 0012-0057, 6955USB. Hypnotist, heartbeat, some interference, story of Halloween horror

jamming started at 0043-0047. (BF, PA Wk PLS QSL) (JS, NE 221)

Oct. 30 *0016-0029*, 6955USB, Phone call to 1-900-Spooky with Halloween songs. (JS, NE 211)

Oct. 30 2235-2332*, 6955 USB, Male announcer with Halloween stories like the Pit & Pendulum. (GM, CT 444) (NW, ONT Gd) (MH, SC 242) (BF, PA Fr)

Radio Nonsense- Belfast, NY

Oct. 30 2319 31-0016*, 6955 USB. Halloween show with Monster Mash and People's Court Comedy Bit. (GM, CT 434) (NW, ONT Gd) (MH, SC 232) (LS, OH 354) (JS, NE 433+)

Radio One- Belfast, NY

Oct. 25 1405-1420*, 6949.9 AM. Slick production of oldies rock w/OM annr. Some xmtr trouble at times. (GZ, OH 242)

Radio USA- Belfast, NY

Oct. 24 2158-2226, 5945AM. BRS Drop, Halloween program? (LS, OH 454) (BF, PA Wk)

Oct. 24 2224-2227*, 6954.9 AM. Caught QRT w/ID & old Wellsville, NY drop given by Mr. Blue Sky. (JF, RI 433)

Oct. 31 2136-2221*, 6955 AM. Halloween show with weird news stories and Halloween stories. (GM, CT 333) (NW, ONT Fr) (MH, SC 242) (LS, OH 453) (BF, PA Wk)

Raptor Radio- QSL Information Unknown

Oct. 25 0208-0235, 6955USB. Music and several IDs that sounded like Raptor Radio (LS, OH 253 PLEASE QSL)

Rasta Radio- QSL Information Unknown

Oct. 20 0210-0234, 6955USB. Good audio, fair sig, low static, Program 1 take 1, Miami Vice theme interval, Smugglers Blues, Bad Boys song, Superstition. (RTJ, TX)

Oct. 23 0108*-0130, 6955USB. Male announcer with Jamaican accent. Ended with Bad Boys song. (JS, NE 222 PLS QSL)

Rock-it Radio- Ventura, CA

Oct. 31 0018-0115, 69955 USB. Oldie Halloween hits like the Monster Mash and Purple People Eater. (GM, CT 232) (MH, SC 232/131) (LS, OH 252) (SM, OK Strong) (MP, SD 222/121 PLS QSL) (JS, NE 333)

Silky Butt Radio- QSL Information Unknown

Oct. 26 0217-0224*, 6955 USB. The "Colonel" saying "I hate corporate rock. Corporate rock still sucks." Did a Ronald Reagan impression. Also said, "We're here to assail our good friend Pig's Ass Radio." (MP, SD 333 PLS QSL)

WACK Radio- Anncd 1-888-959-8177 or wackradiomail@juno.com for reports

Nov. 3 0210*-0350*, 6955USB. Anncd "The Wack is Back" w/ comedy skits. (JS, NE PLS QSL)

Nov. 5 0155-0235, 6954.5 USB. Anncd 1-888959-8177#, alt rock songs, incl "What If God Was On The Bus?", and music came in better than voice. (RC, MA 222) (JS, NE 323 PLS QSL)

WKND- Blue Ridge Summit, PA

Oct. 25 1312-1423, 6955AM. Another interesting program from Radio Animal !!! (LS, OH 333)

Oct. 25 1400-1531*, 6954.8AM. Mainly rock w/Radio Animal, some drama mixed in. Says running his Halloween pgm before other pirates do so. Vigorous laughter IS. (GZ, OH 232) (MP, NY 2-343)

WMPR- QSL Information Unknown

Oct. 24 1332-1346+, 6955AM. Techno music (LS, OH 454)

Oct. 25 *2303-2349*, 6955.5AM. Usual show of techno rock w/good signal. (JF, RI 555) (GM, CT 454) (GZ, OH 454) (LS, OH 555 PLS QSL) (MH, SC 444) (DK, OH 455) (JS, NE 433)

Oct. 31 *0304-0326+, 6955 AM. Vocal dance music with ID of WMPR 1030. (GM, CT 333 PLS QSL) (MP, SD 222 PLS QSL)

WMFQ- Providence

Nov. 9 *0407-0427*, 6955 USB. MX (BF, PA Gd)

WSRR/Solid Rock Radio- Belfast, NY

Oct. 25 2202-2220, 6955USB. OM using way too much echo/reverb, played song "Object Of My Desire". (JF, RI 444) (GM, CT 343)

Voice of Hell- QSL Information Unknown

Oct. 31 0016-0147, 6955 USB. Announcer Satan Lucifer with a Halloween show of Hell's hits. (GM, CT 434 PLS QSL) (NW ONT Gd, PLS QSL as I'm having a devil of time waiting!) (MH, SC 242) (EK, Alberta 3/4;4;3 PLS QSL) (LS, OH 252) (MP, SD 222/322 PLS QSL)

Voice of the Pig's Ear- QSL Information Unknown

Oct. 22 0020-0100, 6955USB. Replay of pgm #6 (JS, NE 433+ PLS QSL)
Oct. 24 2306-2346*, 6955 USB. Replay of pgm #6. (JF, RI 343) (LS, OH 253) (MH, SC 343) (MP, SD 322 PLS QSL) (BF, PA Wk PLS QSL)
Oct. 25 0030*-0104, 6955USB. Mx by Led Zeppelin, Nice program. (JS, NE)
Oct. 26 0203-0234, 6955 USB. Played "To Hell With The Devil" by Stryper, jammed by another op singing "Right Wing Blues". (JF, RI 242 PLS QSL) (MP, SD 232/131 PLS QSL)
Oct. 31 2010-2038*, 6955 USB. Music and information on Gun Control. (GM, CT 221 PLS QSL) (MH, SC 242) (LS, OH 253) (JS, NE 433)

? UNIDENTIFIEDS ?

Oct. 16-2254-2310, 6955U, Comedian, lots of swearing in the skit, (LS, OH, 354)
Oct. 17-2:26, 6955U, Fab Thirde- Wrap it up, AC/DC Shook me all night long (RTJ, TX)
Oct. 19-0029+, 6950U, Captain Gonja, etc. (LS, OH 353) maybe Radio Free Euphoria
Oct. 23-0113-0131, 6955U, "___ from West Miami", Reggae style music including the Cops Theme (Bad Boys) and others, IDs as "Radio ___ from West Miami" and "Radio ___ from Miami Florida", maybe Rasta Radio (LS, OH 253 PLS QSL) (BF, PA Gd PLS QSL)
Oct. 24-1457-1517, 6955AM, We're an American band, Long Tall woman in a black dress, Ramblin Gamblin Man. These songs were separated by about 3 minutes of dead air. (Finn, PA Gd PLS QSL)
Oct. 25-0012+, 6955.1 AM. Eric Clapton tune. (JF, RI 555)
Oct. 25-0039, 6955USB, Led Zep MX, no ID heard. (BF, PA Wk PLS QSL)
Oct. 25-0056-0110, 6955USB, Music, possibly Led Zeppelin (LS, OH 353 PLS QSL)
Oct. 25-1318-1322, 6950AM, Beatles song & a couple others, then gone (LS, OH 354 PLS QSL)
Oct. 25-1354+, 6954.8 AM. Unknown mx & OM talk. (JF, RI 322)
Oct. 25-1439-1459*, 6955AM. BRS mail drop, MX-Aerosmith's King's and Queens, Metal tune, Led Zep- you got what it takes? (BF, PA Wk PLS QSL)
Oct. 26-0118-0142+, 6955 USB. Various songs by Led Zeppelin (JF, RI 242) (GM, CT 243) (LS, OH 353 PLS QSL)
Oct. 30-0029-0033, 6955AM, Werewolves of London, started and stopped. Xmtr trouble? (BF, PA Wk PLS QSL)
Oct. 31 0416-0417, 6.956.30 AM, sigs under QRN, only thing heard was "...kilometers up..." was either someone w/severe audio pbm or was RFPI splattering (SM, OK PSE QSL)
Oct. 31 2220-2221*, 6955.1 AM. Unknown rock mx. (JF, RI 433)
Oct. 31 2300-2310, 6955 USB, Hallowe'en special BCB (EK, Alberta 2/3;3;2)
Nov. 1 0143-0211?, 6955AM Played several songs but static wiped them out near the end (LS, OH 353 PLS QSL)
Nov. 2 0111-0139*, 6955 USB, Bad Boys/rap music, alternate radio, echoed ID's (EK, Alberta 2/3;4;2/3 PSE QSL) (BF, PA Gd)
Nov. 8 0309-0311*, 6.955.00U, sigs btwn +10 & +30, heard weird mx, long dialogue & mention of "death" (SA, OK PSE QSL)
Nov. 8 2143-2200* 6955AM, Dance music with vocalists sounded like WMPR with no ID. (GM, CT 332) (BF, PA Fr)

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** DX NEWS OF INTEREST **

The 1999 "PASSPORT TO WORLD BAND RADIO" is available. It does provide information on pirate radio. It lists 3915, 3930, 3946, and 6200 Khz for European pirates. Consult the 1999 "PASSPORT TO WORLD BAND RADIO" for additional details.

A new mail drop is being run by Radio Bob Communication Network (RBCN), P.O. Box 24, Lula, GA 30554. The operator has offered to provide the service to other pirate stations.

Bad News: The FCC has visited four pirate operators at the end of October and directed they cease their radio transmissions.

Joe Filipkowski will be back from his vacation and will do the January column as usual. The deadline for logs is December 20th. Please provide your logs to him either by electronic mail or snail mail. Both of his addresses are given above.

Deadline for January 1999 DiaLogs: December 20th

Veried Response

your center for QSL information and comment

John T. Arthur, proprietor 7994 Rte 19 Belfast NY 14711-8702
(716) 365-8870 (m.o.l.) not collect E-mail: cc732@freenet.buffalo.edu

with help from the VR Troopers and other good Friends. VR is electronically transmitted to A*C*E HDQ on or before the 20th of each month; please send your input and comments to the above address to arrive prior to the 15th. Your active participation in the form of input, reports, suggestions, and/or constructive criticism is solicited and welcomed. Unless otherwise attributed, opinions in VR are those of this mildly disturbed individual and should not be misinterpreted to represent The A*C*E as an organization, or any other sane person for that matter. Got a beef? Comments and complaints should be directed to this columnist in triplicate for round-filing - and NOT to any other address.

Since this is December (again!), permit me to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a much better New Year on behalf of the entire staff of The ACE. Hope you all get the NRDs and Watkins-Johnsons you so desperately desire!

What's News

the media report

This month we have some good news and some bad news. Here's the bad news:

On Friday, 30 October, the FCC apparently resumed enforcement operations against shortwave operators. For the first time since January, 1994, "housecalls" were made at locations Massachusetts, Texas, Illinois, and California. No warrants were served by the US Marshalls, but cease and desist letters were handed out and the implication is that more visits will be forthcoming. The alleged Ops were also told that they hadn't heard the end of it, meaning that NALs will be on the way soon. An FM operation in Pittsburgh, PA, was also shut down. If you were wondering about the sudden decline of activity on 6955 kHz, now you know the reason(s). [direct]

Here's the good news: The FCC has dropped all charges against 23 NAL recipients, including former ACE writer Don Bishop. Mr Bishop, some of you may recall, was accused of allegedly operating a kilowatt transmitter on 15050 and 7415 from his car for about 13 hours, during a drive from Kansas City to Denver in October of 1991. The reason for the change of heart? The fact that the standardized schedule of forfeitures was illegally implemented and was thrown out by the Circuit Court of Appeals in 1994. Seems they had instituted the revised schedule without the required public comment period, in violation of law. What a way to get their collective hand slapped!! Actions were also dismissed against ACE Communications, K40 Electronics Limited, and Panaxis Productions. [direct]

TROLLing for Pirates

the rumor center....

ADD to Box 293: Blind Faith Radio...

More to the mention of the return of RCBN; Bob has announced a new address, since the Atlanta Box was closed long ago. To contact him, write to POB 24, Lula, GA 30554. As always, no postage is required for his operation...

One less maildrop available!! An announcement has been made that as of the end of the year Box 146, Stoneham, MA, will no longer function as a

Free Radio maildrop. Ops using that address should sign up with another service...

More bad news to report: Joe Momma is no more. Word to reach these ears is that he was on his way home from a pre-Halloween party Friday evening (Oct 30th) when he lost control of his motorcycle and crashed. It was not a pretty sight (motorcycle wrecks never are); he did not survive. And so the scene has lost yet another well-programmed station...

Here's another Euro target for you to try for: Radio Marilyn, out of Italy. They use 9975 and 11645 with 800 watts, and are sked "9 PM to 2 AM" (presumed Italy time) and 24 hrs on Sunday. Don't have an address for them, but it might be worth a try. When I checked, KVOH was on 9975 from 0000-1600 UTC, and Greece uses 11645 from 0400-0800, 1400-1850, and 2100-2250 UTC - but it might be possible...

Would you like to know what went In The ACE or the scene before you joined the club? You can, you know; reprints of early issues are available to anyone who wants them. The originals from 1982 thru 1989 have been remastered so far, and you can get the copies you need to complete your collection or just to find out about the history of the Free Radio scene. Individual copies are US\$2, or an entire year is available for just \$13. If there is any demand, I'll remaster additional years, too. Any "profit", after recouping my investment, will go to the ACE treasury, so it's also a way to help support your club. Write to: ACE Reprints, POB 1, Belfast, NY 14711...

Ohnoit'sthattimeagain! Yup; time for the 1998 ACE Pirate Poll. Your ballots will be accepted from 01 Jan until 28 Feb of 1999, and you are entitled to cast a total of 12 votes: Your votes for the 3 Best and 3 Worst stations heard during 1998 in both Programming and Technical categories. It's not too early to start thinking about it: Drag out your logbook for the year and make a few notes; what did you like? what did you NOT like? Who had the best programs? Who had the best signal? Who had the worst? Jot them down, along with a brief statement explaining your decisions, and be ready to send 'em beginning in January. Remember: You must vote for stations you have personally heard, you are NOT required to be negative if you do not wish to be, and you have no basis to complain about the outcome if you don't participate. Will Garbanzo make it into the 5 Best? Will Laryngitis stage a comeback? Only YOU can tell - by voting. The ACE Poll is not intended to be an sort of a truly scientific survey; it is merely a way for YOU to let the station Ops know how you feel and what you really like and dislike...

The Swappe Shoppe

buy, sell, trade announcements Free to A*C*E members

Please be concise but complete: If you're looking for something, accurately describe what you want; if you're offering something for sale give make, model, honest condition, and asking price. Please help me keep these ads up to date! NO collect calls unless otherwise specified.

Wanted:

Allied-Knight rcvrs, xmtrs, xcvsrs, and catalogs from the 60s and early 70s. Contact: John Vercellino, 6921 Springside Ave, Downers Grove, IL 60516.

New Zealand's free radio specialist needs recordings of US legal and pirate stations for a Radio Sound Archive. If you can contribute contact: SMR via Box 1, Belfast.

USA and Euro Pirates: Yr jingles & promos are needed by the Op of SMR for a 7" compilation. Send contributions via Box 1, Belfast, and help preserve Free Radio history.

For Sale:

Upgrade books for 10-meter radios, including Uniden, Realistic, RCI,

Ranger, Sommerkamp and more. Improve xmit, rcv, synthesizer and audio sections - no crappy CB junk! Inquiries require a #10 SASE - all others ignored. Contact: Bud Stacey, PO Box 907, Satsuma, AL 36572.

Theremin - make wild sounds! Assembled PC boards with instructions, just add your case; 10 available: \$50 to ACE members. Shipping included. Contact: C. Collins, POB 342502, Milwaukee, WI 53234.

Various FT243 crystals for older Heath & Johnson rigs; 90, 41 & 19 meters: US\$10/ea, shipping included. Send a #10 SASE to: POB 1, Belfast, NY 14711 for complete list.

Now you can enjoy your favorite pirate programs in the privacy of your own home or car without the usual noise and static! The DVS Archive contains over 400 programs from more than 100 different NAM stations, and the cost is absurdly low: only \$2 per program (\$4 for two) if you supply the tape, or for \$6 DVS will also provide a C90 cassette. For a list of what's available, send a #10 SASE to: DVS, POB 1, Belfast, NY 14711.

Ever wonder how to broadcast "legally" without a license? Want to serve a small area on campus or around the school? "Adventures in Part 15 Broadcasting" is a clear, concise overview of the hobby and how it's done, what's permitted and what's not. Your copy is only \$15 postpaid from: Bud Stacey, PO Box 907, Satsuma, AL 36572.

Lots of good stuff for sale; radio related books and gear, model train stuff. This is a completely new list, with great discounts. Some new, some used, but NONE abused. Send a #10 SASE for complete list to: Brandon Artman, 515 N. Maryland Ave, West Chester, PA 19380.

For Trade:

Commercial FM exciter capable of 30 watts, FCC type approved, fully metered, set for 92.5 MHz. For quality HF rig with at least 100 watts output. Contact: jta for info.

More on the Radio Shack DX-394 receiver

make that Noise Blanker do something..!

One of the common complaints about the DX394 is that the noise blanker doesn't do anything. Mine is like that, in fact; but there seems to be a wide variance from set to set. One friend tells me that his works just dandy!

First, it's possible that it simply isn't adjusted properly, so try adjusting the threshold. Remove the top cover and look on the main PC board right behind the front panel. Locate VR1, a small trimpot. While listening to a (noisy) signal, adjust the pot clockwise to (hopefully) increase the NB action. If you can take out the noise, you're all set. If not, read on.

To complete the mod you'll need a 150Kohm 1/4-watt resistor and a 1N5817 Schottky barrier diode. The diodes are available from All Electronics Corp (PO Box 567, Van Nuys, CA 91408) at 3 for US\$1. However, the minimum order is \$10 plus shipping.

Once you have the parts, remove the covers and place the radio upside down with the front panel facing you. Locate R180 - it's the third component in front of Q32; it's VERY tiny and has 224 printed on it (220Kohms). Install the 150Kohm resistor across R180. Now locate Q34 - it's to the right of Q32; the Q34 nomenclature will be silk-screened on the board. Attach the cathode of the 1N5817 diode to the collector of Q34 (which is the side with a single pin) and connect the anode of the diode to any convenient Ground trace. You may now replace the bottom cover and turn the radio upright again.

Now locate VR1 and set it to approximately mid-range. Replace the top cover and wipe off your sweaty fingerprints - you're done!

A standard 1N914 or 1N4148 diode can be used, but Schottky barrier diodes have lower noise figures and are more effective in noise blanker

applications, so the 1N5817 is recommended.

Here's a bonus: You can reduce the high-frequency audio hiss in the DX394 quite simply. If it's hard on your ears, locate the audio chip (IC4) and install a 0.001 to 0.0022uF ceramic or tantalum capacitor between pins 8 and 9 of the IC.

Again, I must give credit to the originators of these mods: Fcathell and RickW999 (both @aol.com). Enjoy!

before and after The Knock

what to do (and not do) when the FCC arrives

In light of recent enforcement activities, it seemed to be a good idea to re-run this article (updated and corrected, of course) from a very old column. It didn't hurt that a friend suggested it, too (Good idea, Bud!). That being said, make yourself comfortable and read on...

The most traumatic moment in any Operator's life is when a nondescript car bearing US Government license plates drives up. Someone yells, "Oh god - the Feds!" and suddenly friends and fellow disk jockeys disappear. The Op lets the agents inspect and is fined up to \$20,000. However, it doesn't have to happen like that.

Transmitting without a FCC-issued license is a violation of 47 US Code, but the Federal Communications Commission is *not* a law-enforcement agency. They are administrative and regulatory only; their agents are not police and do not have the enforcement power of law. They recognize this by operating under the Broadcasting Rules and Regulations rather than the law, and by getting assistance from US Marshalls when need be. What all this means is that unlicensed broadcasting is an "administrative violation" of the Rules & Regs, and no CRIME is committed - assuming no interference is caused to any legitimate spectrum user.

You do not have to grant the FCC access to your home with these exceptions: (1) If you hold an amateur radio license you have given the FCC consent to inspect your ham station on demand, and (2) if they show up with a Marshall and a valid warrant you must comply with said warrant.

The FCC is reaction oriented; "we don't go looking for trouble," says a former head of the Field Operations Bureau. That translates to: Research clear frequencies and don't cause interference, and your station should enjoy a long life. One other caveat: Traditionally, the stations that get themselves busted are the ones that have been on the air a lot. If you decide to broadcast every evening at 7 p.m., you have basically put out the welcome mat for the FCC.

Be aware that under American law you are to be considered innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Be aware that the burden of proof is on the accuser (the FCC, in this case). Be aware that you are free, in this country, to own any piece of equipment you wish to own (e.g.: You can own an entire fleet of cars and not possess a valid drivers license - you just cannot drive them on a public road!); possession is not a crime - the only punishable violation is unlicensed transmission. Be aware that circumstantial evidence will not gain a conviction: A warm transmitter, by itself, proves nothing. Be aware that the FCC will often attempt to gain compliance with the Rules and Regs through distortion of facts and outright falsehoods, and may attempt to extort money from you with a "Notice of Apparent Liability". So what do you do? You plan ahead.

First, buy some time. When you answer the door, step outside and close the door behind you. Ask to see identification and don't just let them flash a badge at you; badges are not identification. Make them present picture ID, and take notes (names, ID numbers, the office they're from). Politely ask what they want and whether they have a warrant. If they do not comply with any of this, you are free to order them off your property. If they do have a warrant (and a US Marshall to serve it; local cops have no jurisdiction!), READ IT completely and ask for

explanations of anything you do not fully understand BEFORE allowing them inside.

Meanwhile, you should have at least one reliable friend inside, quietly eliminating evidence. The agents will check any visible equipment to see if it has been used recently and, if they spot a transmitter, they will look to see what frequency it's tuned to. If the rig is warm and is tuned to "the" frequency, your goose may be cooked. Therefore, your friend should power down the rig and disconnect the antenna (maybe connect it to a handy receiver!) and remove any crystals and/or change the tuning (both the bandswitch and the main tuning knob), or remove the transmitter from the scene altogether.

Ideally, as you finally let the agents in the front door, your friend should quietly slip out the back door and get a good look at (and photographs of!) the FCC vehicle and the equipment inside - but NO vandalism!! They won't be as suspicious if you appear to be alone; and it can be very helpful to know what they're using.

Second, keep a tight lip. Don't be so proud of your handiwork that you tell the agents everything they ever wanted to know about your involvement with Free Radio and more. Be polite and honest, but don't volunteer any information. You do not have to explain or justify possession of any equipment; unlicensed use of a transmitter is the only punishable offense and they must establish your guilt.

Third, do not leave any incriminating evidence lying around when the station is operating. This includes letters, reception reports, tapes not in use (or of your previous programs), copies of The ACE, or anything else that would help them determine that you are, indeed, an unlicensed Operator. All that stuff should be stored in another room, at the very least, or in the attic or basement, or, best of all, at another location altogether. It can all be confiscated and used against you and/or others.

Fourth, even if the FCC tracks your signal right to your door and you shut down fast, DO NOT put the rig back on the air in the presence of the Feds. If they're reasonably certain that they found what they were looking for, they might ask you to read a statement on the air that the station has been closed by the FCC. You will convict yourself if you do it (it's called entrapment). Unlicensed operation is the sole administrative violation under their jurisdiction - and you just did it in front of them!

Fifth, RELAX! Your adrenaline may be pumping, but you should appear calm as you rap with the Feds. If you appear nervous they will assume that there is a good reason for you to be, and they will probe deeper. On the other hand, do not offer them coffee or encourage them to stay around any longer than absolutely necessary.

If they try to seize anything without a warrant or a court order, you may stop them. Violence is certainly not to be advocated, but they have no right to take anything without the proper paperwork - that's called THEFT! Of course if you let them take it they will claim that you "surrendered" it. If they have a warrant (and a Marshall) they will take what they want; but you are free to demand a itemized and signed receipt before anything leaves your property. No matter what, do not resist (especially the Marshall) and do not lie to them. Listen carefully to their questions and answer what was asked, but don't volunteer any information; it can and will be used against you. And do not interfere with a Marshall performing his duty; that can get you arrested.

Normally they will mail you a Notice of Apparent Liability, which will arrive two to three weeks after the visit. You will be given a specific time period (usually 30 days) to respond to the NAL, addressing in detail the questions raised in their letter.

If you followed the suggestions given above, you should be able to raise serious questions about solid evidence. You are under no obligation to pay any forfeiture at this time. Indeed, paying is considered an admission of guilt, making the entire procedure just short of Federal extortion.

Ultimately they may take the case (and you) to court but, depending on your actions (and theirs) and what evidence was found, they may not have a case. Keep in mind that the courts are badly back-logged to begin with, and with almost any decent lawyer you should be able to drag out the case for a long time, blurring the facts. The basis of American law is that they must establish your guilt without violating your Rights (you are not required to prove your innocence!) and if they cannot do so you walk and they pay any and all court costs.

Even if the court eventually finds you guilty, place the amount of the forfeiture in an escrow account and challenge the constitutionality of the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended). You don't have to pay one penny of extortion to the FCC until you have exhausted all avenues of appeal. G'luck!

And here is what was slipped.....

Under The Door

the QSL report for December 1998

Tony Benbenek managed a full data card (#666!) from Radio Azteca signed by Bram with QSL check sheet and Azteca maze in 28 days. [or is that maize? jta]

Joe (vacationing) Filipkowski racked up a full data blue card (#5) from Vot Twilight Alehouse in 1 month, 2 full data sheets (#1375&1384) from WLIS signed by CP in 47 days and a full data color photo & infosheet from Crazy Wave R (via SWRS) signed by Chris Ise in 3.5 months.

Greg Majewski received a nice "Welcome to the Hotel JTA" letter (#210) from Radio Eclipse signed by Steve Mann in 67 days. [and I somehow lost his report on my hard drive! jta]

Scott McArdle pulled in a card & letter from the staff of KORN in 190 days, a full data card from Tangerine R in 19 days, large QSL card from Radio Xanax in 23 days for rprr to Stoneham, a letter from WHYP signed by Joseph Brownyard for 7/98 logging somewhere, card from Free Hope Experience (says "formerly KXXX") for report of KXXX in 157 days, and a large QSL Card from Radio Caroline (via Merlin's xmtr) some time ago.

John McWilliams caught a full data card (#163) from Omega Radio signed by Dick Tator in 309 days, a full data sheet (#1387) from WLIS signed by Charles Poltz in 54 days, 2 full data cards (#659&672) from Radio Azteca signed by Bram in 16 and 33 days, a full data sheet (#29) from KAMP signed by I Am Nutts in 135 days, a full data card (#7) from Vot Twilight Alehouse in 30 days, a card (#19) from KORN in 193 days, a full data card from XANAX in 9 days, a full data "loose cannon" card from K2000 in 9 days, and a full data sheet (#67) from WBIG signed by Big Mike in 59 days. [yes, several folks have heard SWRS on 11470! jta]

Gary Neal reports a full data "From America's Heartland" card (#27) from KORN in 204 days, and a full data card (#265) from RBCN signed by Radio Bob in 7 days.

Jesse Rose is bragging about 2 full data cards (#653&661) from R Azteca (via R Eclipse) signed by Bram in 4 wks each, a full data card for a "catch us if you can cat and mouse broadcast" heard on 5 different freqs from Jerry Rigged Radio signed by Simon in 5 weeks, and a full data/map card from Voice of the Rock signed by Paul Art in 8 weeks.

George (back from vacation) Zeller scored a full data "Ruby Shooting Oswald" card (#4) from the Voice of the Twilight Alehouse signed by Supernatural Anesthetist in 31 days.

Ye Olde Columniste scored a full data color "girl with airplane (banned album cover)" sheet (#12) from Blind Faith Radio signed by Doctor Napalm for an Email report in nine days.

'zit for another year. Hope you all have a Merry Xmas (and get all the radio goodies you want) and a Happier New Year. 73FR and great DX...

SIG file tag line of the month:

"If at first you don't succeed, stay away from skydiving!"

CLANDESTINE PROFILE

George Zeller; 3492 West 123rd St.; Cleveland, OH 44111-3553

Your loggings, information, and speculations about clandestine radio stations are always very welcome for this column. You can send them direct to your editor at 3492 West 123rd Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44111. Or, you can call (216) 941-3366 anytime, or else (216) 696-9077 between 1300-2145 UTC weekdays. E-mail input is welcome via my georgez@acclink.com address. My old e-mail address of George.Zeller@acclink.com still works as well.

THE HALLOWEEN PIRATE BUSTS IN THE USA

This is a column about clandestine radio stations. But, by far the biggest news of 1998 for ACE members has been the coordinated series of FCC busts of four USA shortwave pirates over the Halloween weekend period. One of the busted stations, Voice of the Pig's Ear, continually skirted the line of semi-clandestine broadcasting by the operator's continual political commentary from a far-right wing political perspective. His slogan of "right wing radical lunatic fringe radio" and his frequent and almost regularly scheduled weekend broadcasts at least suggest some intent at clandestine broadcasting. In any event, the biggest HF pirate news of the year in the United States is important enough that a discussion is warranted here in the ACE Clandestine Profile.

At press time for this column, the FCC still had not released ID's of the stations that were busted, or names of the alleged station operators. Only alleged transmitter QTH's in California, Illinois, Massachusetts, and Texas were cited by the FCC in their official bust press release. I called the FCC for comment, so you may want to check out the Outer Limits column in the January issue of *Monitoring Times* for the somewhat goofy FCC response.

The main impact of the obviously coordinated bust activity has been an enormous and drastic short term reduction in North American HF pirate activity on 6955 kHz. The FCC had not busted an HF pirate to my knowledge for over three years, leading to the record-breaking level of pirate activity that has bulged the pages of ACE DiaLogs during the late 1990's. Scheduled, regular, or predictable pirate transmissions for hours on particular weekends are obviously not a particularly sound tactic at the moment. These tactics have never been good operating practice, but many pirates got lax during the lengthy period when there was no notable FCC enforcement on HF pirate bands. Certainly the most prominent example of this during fall 1998 was the semi-clandestine Voice of the Pig's Ear. On every weekend the station aired several shows per evening. The operator actively solicited and engaged in QSO's with other pirates between his program broadcasts, sometimes on 6955 kHz and sometimes with a QSY to a nearby frequency. Blatant disregard of good pirate operating tactics left Pig's Ear as an easy "sitting duck" target for the FCC when they decided to move in.

A predictable opposite reaction has now set in. Nearly everybody has been scurrying for cover, leaving 6955 currently silent for long periods on consecutive weekends. We have seen this sort of thing in the past after major high profile FCC busts on HF. But, I remind the pirate and clandestine community that the reality of the situation has not changed much. The FCC has closed the majority of their manned field offices, relocating their enforcement monitoring efforts on a remote basis from the Laurel, Maryland office. DF vans and FCC personnel are still available around the country, as we saw with the busts, and the remote Laurel DF effort can pinpoint transmissions to fairly precise QTH's within a few miles of an actual transmitter site. But, even in the age of satellites and GPS technology, there still is no substitute for a DF vehicle driving down a street to pinpoint precise transmitter locations. Given late 1990's budget cuts and reorganization, and despite the purchase of new state-of-the-art DF vehicles, the FCC does not have the manpower to stake out any given QTH for weeks at a time until a magic moment arrives when a pirate or clandestine takes to the air. Thus, broadcasts that are genuinely randomly spaced and of fairly short duration in the 15-45 minute range remain virtually unenforceable by the FCC as a practical matter. Mobile and remote broadcasts are even more difficult to track down for obvious reasons. I only recall one instance in history (in Pennsylvania about a decade ago) when FCC enforcement officials were near a pirate broadcasting QTH completely by chance, and were able to follow up this wild streak of luck with a bust. My point is that pirate broadcasting without FCC enforcement is still quite possible in the USA, and thus we are likely to see plenty of it once station operators re-assess the current tactical situation.

From a clandestine perspective, I find the FCC's recent moves to be ironic. There currently is virtually no use of 6955 kHz by other broadcast or utility services in this region of the world, other than a China Radio International transmitter that normally propagates to North America only near local evening greyline during the winter DX season. So, the FCC's contention that HF pirate busts are needed to protect other broadcasting, utility, or emergency services is clearly a completely false statement that the FCC ought to

be embarrassed about. (I guess that bona-fide false statements are not a big deal in Washington from the government; just watch C-SPAN for plenty of illustrations on a daily basis). On the other hand, the main impact of the sudden disappearance of pirate broadcasting on 6955 kHz after the busts has been to clear the frequency for unlicensed maritime rag chews off North America's coasts and drug dealer communications in Central America. I understand the FCC's close cooperation with the National Association of Broadcasters to protect a virtual monopoly held by a shrinking handful of large corporations that recently have been given control of licensed broadcasting in the United States. This isn't particularly sound policy that is in the public interest, but I nevertheless understand the politics involved. On the other hand, I am baffled by the FCC's motivation for clearing a frequency so that drug dealers and fishermen can rag chew with each other on 6955 kHz without any threat of broadcasting QRM. I had not previously been aware of the FCC's tacit cooperation with illicit activities outside the United States. They probably didn't think about this issue either, but on a *de facto* basis, this has been the short term result of the FCC's actions. They ought to give it some thought in Washington.

ZACHARIAS LIANGAS CLANDESTINE LOGS

As usual this month we have two clandestine loggings from active DXer Zacharias Liangas from Italy:

Iraq. The Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan was noted at 1753 on 4085 kHz on October 11. Typical fare for the region consisted of calls to prayer, hymns in Farsi, instrumental music, and an ID of "ira geli kurdistan". Even with winter propagation conditions, 90 meter clandestines are not going to make it into North America at high noon in Chicago.

Nigeria. Radio Kudirat came in November 4 at 1930 UTC on 6205 kHz in English with an apology for technical problems that led to a suspension of normal programming, giving credit to the Nigerian government for the problems. The station remained on the air with program content not too dissimilar to what we are used to from them. Now that sunset is much earlier in North America, the original Nigerian clandestine should be a very easy catch for most of us.

RADIO TAKHAR

According to BBCMS, cited in various places including the Clandestine Radio Intel web site and *Clandestine Radio Watch*, anti-Taleban rebels in Afghanistan have apparently recaptured the Radio Takhar transmitter site. Since mid-October there have been clandestine broadcasts from this one located in Taloan, the capital of Takhar Province in Afghanistan. BBCMS has been hearing them on 7085 kHz in the 1200-1315* UTC range, so reception in North America cannot be ruled out during winter propagation conditions. BBCMS notes that the schedule probably moved to 1130-1230 UTC with the advent of daylight savings time. The Taleban government of Afghanistan had previously captured this transmitter in August, so things are obviously subject to change.

WRMI NEWS

Via Jeff White of WRMI and Armando F. Mastrapa of the *Clandestine Radio: An Anti-Castro Historiography* web site at <http://polisci.home.mindspring.com/ach.html> on the internet, Directorio Revolucionario Democrático Cubano is now airing anti-Castro programming on WRMI's 9955 kHz frequency for a half hour at 1300 UTC on Saturdays. Their contact address is listed as via Orlando Gutierrez, 7105 SW 8th Street, Suite 207, Miami, Florida 33144.

MY VISIT TO THE SRI LENK TRANSMITTER SITE

Between Halloween and Veteran's Day I took an extended trip to Switzerland for the second year in a row. While there I visited the Lenk transmitter site formerly operated by Swiss Radio International. Unfortunately this site has been permanently closed, along with the Schwarzenburg SRI site, leaving Sottens as the only shortwave transmitter site still active within Switzerland that is still used by SRI. The shows we hear on frequencies like 9905 kHz are now being transmitted via leased time from French Guyana. A few of the transmitter towers at Lenk had already been pulled down when I visited, and a bulldozer was on site actively working on the rest. Piles of antenna elements, insulators, and other equipment used in the Lenk antenna array were being loaded into dumpsters at the site. All written signs identifying the site as a Swisscom or Swiss Radio International operation have already been removed during the demolition, but I did locate what must have been the main transmitter building adjacent to the antenna farm. The building was mostly underground. I have a handful of pictures that I took at the site. If anybody would like to have them in .jpg format over the internet, let me know and I'll forward them. It's always sad to see the demise of a shortwave broadcasting transmitter, and for the second year in a row I've been able to see the contraction of SRI's Switzerland sites on a first hand basis. Ironically, pirates such as Radio 510 may end up being the main Swiss voice on shortwave that comes direct from the country.

RADIO SWAN

I ran across a web site on the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba at <http://www.parascope.com/articles/1296/baydocs.htm> that includes a variety of pages from a CIA file admitting that the US was responsible for the operation of Radio Swan on Swan Island during the early 1960's. As the introduction to the CIA document states on the web site, the CIA says that Radio Swan "was used in tactical support of the strike force" during the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba. In addition, the CIA description notes that "Radio Swan was monitored by hemisphere radio stations and by world press services, and was an important factor in presenting the desired picture of fighting in Cuba to world opinion." The actual CIA document, marked "eyes only," discusses strategic shifts in Radio Swan programming as circumstances shifted during the early 1960's. These CIA papers are interesting to anybody with an interest in clandestines from over thirty years ago, so you may wish to check them out.

DEMOCRATIC VOICE OF BURMA

Paul Lautzenheiser of Ohio wrote in saying that he has a bookmark for the Burmese resistance in his computer, but that their web site lacks the program schedule for the Democratic Voice of Burma. I gave Paul the same advice that I give everybody who is looking for updated clandestine schedules, logs, and background information. The Clandestine Radio Intel web site, operated by our own Nick Grace and with regular input from Martin Schoech's Clandestine Radio Watch in Germany, remains the state of the art for keeping track of clandestine activity all over the world. The URL of <http://www.qsl.net/yb0rmi/cland.htm> remains the place to go for the information. Their latest schedule from August 1998, posted here right off the Clandestine Radio Intel site, is *1245-1345* 13820 (Dushanbe), 15330 (Germany) kHz and *1430-1455* 11850 (Norway), 13820 (Dushanbe), 15635 (Germany) kHz (Direct via BCDX 376). Nick and Martin's award-winning resource remains the #1 place to go for clandestine activity information. In addition, numerous DX sources have been covering the tests that Democratic Voice of Burma made in late October and early November from Palau. The tests were on 9985 kHz for an hour at 1300 UTC. So, here's another frequency to check out in the morning in case this evolves into a consistent service.

CONTROVERSY AT RADIO MARTI

For many months there has been a continual struggle related to the reorganization of the USA's Radio Marti service to Cuba. Armando Mastrapa points out that the *Clandestine Radio: An Anti-Castro Historiography* web site is maintaining a collection of "recent news articles and documents related to the current crisis" at Radio Marti. Point your browser to: http://polisci.home.mindspring.com/crisis_at_radio_marti.html

LA VOZ DE LA RESISTENCIA

Last month we discussed the changing political situation in Colombia related to negotiations between Colombia's new government and the FARC rebels, speculating that this might have some impact on clandestines that remain active in the country. In *Numero Uno* #1501, Mark Mohrmann of Vermont notes a log of La Voz de la Resistencia on 6239.8 kHz from 1051-1114 UTC. An ID and anthem were associated with a *1100 official sign-on. Mark noted that the station had a good signal despite fading, heterodynes, and bootleg Spanish language QSO's nearby. So, the morning may be a good time to try for this target. Late afternoons prior to local sunset are still worth a look for the Colombians as well.

VIA BBCMS

This month we have only one clandestine station summary from BBC Monitoring Service courtesy of Bob Grove at Grove Enterprises. They note that the Voice of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq is scheduled for two hours at 0330 UTC daily in Arabic and Kurdish on five frequencies: 9610, 7295, 7115, 6195, and 1224 kHz. BBCMS says that they are not currently hearing a rebroadcast at 1430 UTC, nominally scheduled on 9670 and 7115 kHz. These frequencies are also used by the external service of Iran, so you get two guesses as to the transmitter QTH of the clandestine. The Arabic ID of this one is "sawt al-thawrah al-islamiyah fi al-iraq." The Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), which is the same organization responsible for the Voice of Rebellious Iraq, is the sponsoring organization for this one. Given the times, frequencies, and relatively high power used here, this is a clandestine that is fairly easy to log in North America.

THANKS!

This month we thank the following who sent in material to this column: Zacharias Lingias (Italy), Martin Schoech (Germany), Peter Lautzenheiser (Ohio), Jeff White (Florida), Armando F. Mastrapa (Florida), and George Zeller (Ohio). I also thank various individuals in the pirate radio community and at the FCC for their remarks, which I'm keeping anonymous here. Next month we all hope to hear from YOU by December 20 for the January ACE Clandestine Profile.

Micro 'casting

Bud Stacey, P.O. Box 907, Satsuma, AL 36572-0907

e-mail: salstacey@aol.com

The sole purpose of this column is to enlighten & educate ACE members about the many facets of Part 15 radio- this is YOUR column! Please send all newspaper clippings, tapes, station profiles and what have you to the mailing address or e-mail address above.

HO, HO, HO! Here's hoping y'all have all your Christmas shopping done by now and your dream radio(s) are being loaded on Santa's sled! It's been a kickin' year in micro radio, so I hope all those dreams come true! Let's jump into....

STATION PROFILE: I got this one awhile back and in moving the office around, I kinda mislaid a few things, so my apologies, my anonymous friend- so here goes!

"I went on the air with 20 watts FM stereo (about April '98). I moved to this remote part of a western U.S. state a year ago and was disgusted to find only country and rock & roll on the FM dial here from the stations in the closest city, which is about 40 miles away through the mountains. This is when I decided to look into starting a community station. I talked to the National Federation of Community Broadcasters in San Francisco and was told it would cost about \$200,000 to get a small station up & running! We are a community of about 400 people in a 12-mile radius. Our population is very diverse, farmers, country folk, retired people and professional people. Investing that much money in a station would be ridiculous, if we even had it!"

"I have worked in broadcasting and video production all my life, so I was quite comfortable with building a station. I had all the studio equipment except the transmitter and antenna, which I bought from L. D. Brewer. It is an excellent unit, well-made and very stable."

"I am on the air from 6:00AM to 10:00PM, 7 days a week. I play only the types of music not available from the few other stations that can be received in this valley. I play easy listening, instrumental, classical, vocals of the '40s, '50s and '60s, blue grass, big band and new age. My stereo quality is superb. I use a limiter/compressor, cut the extreme low and high frequencies with an equalizer and watch my levels very carefully. This is a quality operation!"

"I have my own tape, disc and LP collection, but also use music loaned from the community and from satellite. I have the latter programmed so that when I'm away, the music format will continue minus my presence during the breaks. I can't be here continuously- I am a one-man, unpaid operation! I give the weather, and check satellite pictures and weather radar from the Internet in order to give reputable local reports frequently."

"I run this station like any big-city PBS-type station- no commercials and first-rate. I have never listened to other "pirate"

stations but I have the feeling many sound 'fly-by-night'. Basically, the only difference from my station and those commercial broadcasters in town is the power output and FCC license."

"To promote my station, I put flyers in the mail (with some hesitation) to every 'postal patron' in the community. I'm not looking for publicity, but realize that if the community doesn't know I exist, I'm wasting my time. The response was terrific! 'It's a breath of fresh air' and 'I have you on all day' are some of the comments I received. They didn't know I was a pirate, but some wondered what my call letters were. I use the name of our town, followed by 'Radio' as my call sign. The community has joined in and gives me announcements of local interest to broadcast. I broadcast the news 4 times daily, followed by local news items and events. I have local people on at times to talk about subjects that would be interesting to our community."

"I am retired with no income, so at some point I may have a fund drive to keep me going. It costs about \$4.00 a month for electrical power for the station equipment. Transistors don't use a lot of power!"

"I've found that operating a pirate station can be both fun and beneficial to the community. It's sad that we have to operate under such fear in such a great country as the U.S.A."

You've said it my friend! Especially with all the door-kicking and outright lies the FCC has perpetrated recently and over the years. Gee, it seems like mini, low-key Waco-like Gestapo raids are the rule lately- first patriots, now pirates! What's wrong with "p" words, I wonder?

Mr. Anonymous has added the BBC world news roundup to his schedule, piped from a Baygen radio powered by a 6-volt battery. He also added a microphone during the spring/late summer mounted about 2 feet from a birds' nest to put their little "cheeps" on the air live while he read the news. He also mentioned in a later note that he'd started playing with a Knight Kit 1-tube "broadcaster" back in the '50s when he was a kid at summer camp in Wisconsin. He goes 'way back! Thanks so much, sir! Keep up the good work!

On a more recent note, a fellow operating totally in the clear is about to pack up & go to work (professionally) with a radio group in California. He told me he was operating a 1KW station on a vacant 3KW frequency in my dad's home town- his main supporters were the local police, who couldn't get any decent programming at the station or on patrol. "Keith" runs a commercial-grade type-accepted transmitter with an Optimod 8100 processor; he also uses the latest EAS equipment. In fact, all the equipment he runs is commercial/professional! His argument is that a non-licensed operation can be run with little chance of causing interference and he'll argue that fact with running 1KW on a 3KW frequency! He says he has no problems running "in the open", but my policy is and always has been to not reveal my source(s). Here's to you, sir!

COMMUNITY SERVICE: And who appreciates it when someone is always "there"? The community! Micro Kind Radio stayed on despite the recent flood in central Texas, never losing power and provided updated information as calls "flooded" in (heh heh heh!). Their

town of San Marcos has NO local TV or radio news, which seems to be the norm in today's conglomerate giant radio scheme of things. Thanks Joe Ptak, and the rest, for being there!

There are numerous cases, some cited here, where micro stations have served the community in one way or another- sometimes in small ways, others with great impact. I agree with Mr. Anonymous that it's a shame micro radio operators have to work in fear of retribution of the Feds, especially when they are filling MUCH-needed niches.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS: And since everyone is concentrating on First Amendment rights to free speech, it seems to me that most of us have forgotten about the Tenth Amendment! "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States, or to the people." In other words, if a particular city, county or state doesn't wish to abide by federal laws, rules or regulations, they can opt out and run things themselves, which happens EVERY DAY! I remember a particular case (although I cannot quote it perfectly) where a county sheriff in Arizona sent the FBI packing when they tried to come into his county and take over an investigation. He reminded them they had NO jurisdiction in his particular case, which crossed no state lines, so they had to comply and leave. I believe the Tenth Amendment could apply in the cases of micro-'casters- especially where the FCC is only an appointed body of agents and the make NO laws, ONLY rules and regulations. THINK ABOUT IT!

EQUIPMENT: MFJ Enterprises (www.mfjenterprises.com) in Mississippi State, MS now carries Vectronics kits- two of which are a TV transmitter kit and an AM transmitter kit, both under \$30. There are also more fun kits- check 'em out at www.vectronics.com or call MFJ at 601-323-5869 (their toll-free # is for orders only, so I won't include it here- sorry!).

CORRECTION: Fellow columnist and historian John T. Arthur set me straight on Al Wiener- seems like he had a licensed AM/FM combo in Maine at the same time he had the Yonkers translator station- and it operated on 1622 kHz, not 1610 as I mentioned in the October column. Further, I logged his new station WBCQ on 9/9/98 when he began testing, not 9/8/98...pesky typos! Thanks JTA, for setting me straight!

And with that, I'll say, "Felices Navidad!" to one and all...and Happy New Year! (Pat, Steve, John, Joe, George, Tom & Howard: Where's the office party this year? de Bud

FREE RADIO/PIRATE RADIO WORLD WIDE WEB SITES -

ROCK-IT RADIO: <http://members.wbs.net/homepages/r/o/c/rockitradio.html>

DUTCH PIRATE RADIO: <http://members.xoom.com/pirate60/>

Covert Comms

By Tom Severt

305 Granby Street Frontenac, KS 66763-2440 Phone/Fax: 316-231-0228
tmsevert@fament.com

A few numbers oddities to report this month. First, the Counting Station (E5) has been on nightly on 4670 and 5238 kHz parallel at 0200 UTC. These are the usual 215 group messages that are more than likely used for training purposes.

I heard the sked on 31 October at 0247 on 5238 with a message in progress in the AM mode. It just seemed like a normal Counting Station broadcast except that in the middle of the message the AM carrier was dropped and Cynthia continued with the numbers in USB. Unusual to say the least, but when I heard another transmission on the 2nd of November on 5238 at 0235, it did the same thing. The parallel transmission on 4670 continued to broadcast in AM. Unfortunately, I wasn't listening on 4670 in the first instance, so I wasn't able to hear whether or not it stayed in AM or switched to USB as did 5238. On the 16th of November, I was listening to both frequencies. At 0245 both sides switched to USB.

Now I guess the question we're all wondering is: Why are they switching from AM to USB? Your guess is as good as mine. Until recently, I've never seen a Counting Station do that. It's hard to imagine that this is a mistake, given the high technical standards of this station. Transmission mistakes, we are all aware, are the trademark of the Cuban stations. All the Counting Stations only use the USB portion when transmitting in AM, also known as full-carrier USB. I believe that the persons receiving the messages are probably listening in USB mode, which wouldn't make any difference to them if the AM carrier dropped or not.

Another E5 oddity: on the 5th of November, the first group of the message was "00000." It's unclear whether this group has any meaning or not. It's not usual for Counting Stations to send a stutter group.

Next we take a look at the Russian Woman (E6). Lately she's been on 6865 at 0130 almost nightly. On the 1st of November, actually Halloween night, the familiar voice came on repeating "936." After the callup, the preamble of 210 210 543 543 was sent, then the 5-figure groups. In case you're not familiar with E6 preambles, the second number is the group count. That means a 543 group message was sent. E6 stations always repeat each group, so a total of 1086 groups were sent. The station finally signed off at around 0307Z. This is the largest message I've ever seen from a numbers station. Normally, E6 sends messages that are anywhere from 100-200 groups long. The same message was repeated the very next night at the same time on the same frequency. It was then repeated on 5817 at 0331. Moscow must have some important information to pass to its agents to be sending a 543 group message at least three times in 24 hours. Either that or one of their agents needs some practice copying/decoding messages. At any rate, this message would certainly make for a marathon decoding session.

Shortwave listener Eddy Waters of Australia informed me of an odd CW station he hears at 1200 UTC on 11317.3. This station sends the callsign UI333 twice and then goes into three-letter groups. I've never seen this callsign or format logged before. If anyone has any information or loggings of this station, please let me know.

With all the recent activity concerning Iraq's refusal to let UN weapons inspectors do their job, it is interesting to see if numbers activity increases. I haven't noticed any personally, but this is due to not having a great deal of time to listen. The level of HF military traffic was on the increase, so I'm interested to see if other numbers monitors have noticed higher levels of traffic from the E5 counting stations or the Lincolnshire Poacher E3. The counting stations are run by the CIA, and Lincolnshire Poacher is run by MI6, a branch of the British intelligence service. Lincolnshire Poacher is believed to be located on the island of Cyprus and broadcasting messages to agents located in the Middle East. The Lincolnshire Poacher has a regular schedule and sends numerous messages daily, so there probably won't be much of an increase in message traffic. I'm sure some of the messages sent every day are dummy messages. They probably send fewer dummy messages and more actual messages as the need arises.

Please note that my email address has changed. It is now tmsevert@fament.com. Your information and logs of numbers stations and other unusual signals is much appreciated. I want to wish everyone a happy holiday season. See you in 1999.

another A*C*E Special Feature...

The Directory (edition 31)

by: John T. Arthur (c) Dec 1998; commercial rights reserved

The following are the known addresses of active and planned North American Free Radio stations, revised to 12 Nov 1998. MW & FM frequencies given where known.

KEY:	*	=	also on SW	BC	=	broadcast or broadcasting
	FR	=	free radio	Mx	=	Music
	R	=	radio	RF	=	radio free
	Intl	=	international	SVC	=	service
	Vo	=	voice of	Vot	=	voice of the
	Vox	=	voice	WW	=	worldwide
	?	=	existence questionable			

770 Sycamore Ave #J193, Vista, CA 92083: Anarchy One, Vot Dead

Box 1, Belfast, NY 14711:

Alternate Elvis?, Anteater R, Atomic Frog, Big Brother R?, Black Rider R, Black Swan R-100.9*, Beck to Beck R, Bullfrog R, Cactus Wireless, Car Show, CELL phone R, CFBN, CNBS, Country Frog, CRSN, East Coast Mx R, High Times R, Hit Parade R, KAOS, KNBS, KOAM, KQRP, KXVN-830/92.7, La V de Mundano Tiempo, Liberty!, Microdot R, NAPRS, Night On Fire, One Vox R, Orbital Mind Control Satellite, Pan Global Wireless, R Azteca, R Cyclops, RF Euphoria, R Frog Euphoria, R EXP, RFM, RF Speech, R Garbanzo, R Hallowe'en, R Headlights?, RKNA, R Marabu (Germany), R Mindwebs, R Navidad Intl, R Okeechobee, R One, R Poncho Villa, R USA, Reefer Madness R, SML Ltd, Solid Rock R, Southern Mx R (NZ), The Oasis, Union City R, Vo Bob?, Vo Bono, Vot Daleks, Vo Intoxication, Vo Laryngitis, Vo Nothing, Vot Runaway Maharishi, Warthog R?, WAZU, WBIG, WCR-89.3, WDRR, WGBR-600/91.5/104.1, Witch City R, WMAD?, WMIR, WORK, WPUP, WQSL?, WRAY, WREC, WRRN, WRV, WRVC, WSKY, WTWP, WVOL, WYMN, WYYZ-550/91.7, WWW, XEROX, Xmas Day R, Z Radio

Box 24, Lula, GA 30554: R Bob's Comm Net

Box 88, Moline, MI 49335: Omega R

Box 109, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214:

Black Rock R, Cherokee R, CKLW, Crazy Wave R, CSIC, CXDX, Defiance!90, Down East R, East Coast Beer Drinker?, F Hope Experience, He Man R, Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy Electromagnetic Emissions, Howdy Doody R, KAMP, KAT, KEND, KLBR, KMCR, KRAP, KULP, Midnite R, Mystic Vot Western Prairies, Omega R, Pirate R Trenton, R Anarchy, R Blandx, R Cochiguaz, R Drift?, R Flattus?, R Ganymede?, R Killinger, R Marabu, R Metallica WW, R Neptune Universal Svc, R Pirana Intl, R Politzania?, R Scottish Montreal, Real Alternative R, Revolution R, Samurai R?, Society of Industrialized Music?, The Asylum, The Fox, Tube R, Vo Anarchy, Vo BC Freedom, Vot Epileptic Catfish, Vo Monotony?, Vo Normandy?, Vot Purple Pumpkin, VoRF Indiana, Vo SW R, Vo Stench?, WAO, Way Gone R, WBM, WCTU, WKZP?, WLQ, WLIS, WNOT, WPBS, WPHI, WREC, WYDX, Wire Line R?

Box 146, Stoneham, MA 02180: -- Closing 01 Jan 99 --

Box 293, Merlin, ONT N0P 1W0, Canada:

Altered States R, Argosy Magazine, Blind Faith R, CKXO?, CRTC, CSIC, Eve of Destruction, Great Southland, Greater Manchester Celtic R, Happy Hanukkah, Johnny Canuck, Juggernaut R, Laser Hot Hits, Montana Audio Relay Svc, North Jersey Coast R, R Beaver, R Cambodia from Phnom Penh?, R Cando, R Farside?, R Fluffernut, R Gemini, R Gloria, R London, R Marabu, R Merlin Intl, R Moody Blue, R Pus, R Scottish Montreal, R Toronto?, The Fox, Vo Helium, VOID, Vo Juliet, Vo RF Indiana, Wee Guy R?, Wire Line R?, WAOJ, WPMS, WRBI, X-Files R

Box 422, Wellsville, NY 14895: Black Swan R-100.9, WDRR, WGBR-91.7

Box 1073, Santa Madre, CA 91025: KCHZ\Box 1212, Dunedin, NZ: Southern Music R

Box 3103, Onekawa, Napier, NZ: KIWI (NZ), R G'day (Aust), Radio Sue (NZ)

Box 3511, La Mesa, CA 91944: KUNT?

Box 11522, Huntsville, AL 35814:

Action R, Females BCing Interference, Grand Ol' Opry R, KCGR, KHAT-1650, KICK, RF Jesus, RF Salvation, RF Spin, R Ogalalla, Vo Bizarro World, Vo F America?, Vo Gilligan?, WEED, WISL, WPN, WRAR, WRX, ZNS4?

PO Box 12-128, Ahuriri, Napier, NZ: R Jemima

Box 25302, Pittsburgh, PA 15242:

Kranker R?, R WOLF Intl, Radio X, Rastafarian R, VOID, Vo Stench?

Box 28413, Providence, RI 02908:

4 MHz R?, 6YCAT, 6YVOS, Alan Masyga Project, Betty Boop R, Big Johnson R, Brockett 99, Cat In T Hat, Computer R?, Desert Vibrations R, Fake Alan Masyga Project, F Dylan Experience, Friday R, Hotel California SW, Indira Calling, Jerryrigged R, Jurassic R?, Kansas Midland RR?, KBLK, KDED?, KGDR, KILR, KKN50?, KORN, KRDR, KTLA, Office de R et TV du Quebec, Outlaw R, R Ano Nuevo, R Eclipse, R Erotica, R Eurogeek, RFM, RF Vinyl, R Fusion R, R Gerbil, R Inca, R is not R, R Nine, R Operation Mindcrime, R Tellus, R Two, T Scream ot Butterfly, Solid State R, Take It To t Limit R, The Fox, The Gasman, This Is Not Mystery R, Up Against t Wall R, Vot Blue & Grey, Vo Christmas, VoHelium, Vot Rock, Vot Runaway Maharishi, Vo Scotland?, Vot Twilight Alehouse, WBLU, WGTG, WLWLIS, WMEL, WMFQ, WPRS, WUNH, XEROX

When contacting a Free Radio station:

Always use the address announced in the broadcast; it is the most current. If no address is announced, use the one listed here. If the station has no listed address, you can try sending a report to one of the major maildrops and crossing your fingers.

Always enclose adequate postage with your report for forwarding and reply. Never expect a 'droperator to pay the postage for your QSL - most will not do so. Enclose three mint First Class stamps if you live in the same country as the station; otherwise US\$1 or a couple IRCs should do the trick. For pirate outside your country, enclose three or four IRCs or a dollar or two. NOTE: do NOT enclose a SASE unless the station specifically requests that you do so.

Remember that announcing a maildrop is not the same thing as guaranteeing a QSL, so don't blame the 'droperator if you never hear from the station. We are not QSL Managers, after all; we only handle the mail. Station Ops should keep their promises.

One final tip: Avoid asking about station location. It's a dumb question that Operators only answer to mislead correspondents. Most Ops, however, will answer questions about power or equipment, and appreciate your technical observations, bandscans and recordings.

If you Operate and desire audience contact, you should use a maildrop service for some semblance of security. There are several "open" 'drops available, including:

Box 1, Belfast, NY 14711
Box 109, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214
Box 293, Merlin, ONT NOP 1W0, CANADA
Box 11522, Huntsville, AL 35814
Box 25302, Pittsburgh, PA 15242
Box 28413, Providence, RI 02908

ALWAYS write for complete details before using anybody's address!

Operators and listeners are requested to confirm activity and address information for periodic updates of this Directory. Send all input to: ACE Directory, POB 1, Belfast, NY 14711.

Thanks are due to: Joe Filipkowski, Chris Lobdell, and J.D. Stephens for their assistance updating this list.

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The Presidents Page

Pat Murphy - P.O. Box 12112 - Norfolk, VA 23541

Its been 4 1/2 years since the last H.F. Pirate was busted by the FCC, but according to the rumor mill, at least four have been busted in the last month. The question is WHY? Why after so many years does an under budgeted (their claim) federal agency suddenly start going after weekend hobby pirate broadcasters who typically generate only 50 or 100 watts? The focus in the past year has been on the FM pirates, but we know, at least in part, that was because of the NAB declaring war on "illegal broadcasters". Are the commercial Shortwave Broadcasters complaining? The rumor has been that WGTG was going to take over 6955khz, but there have been no tests and nothing officially published that the time had arrived to begin on that frequency. One of the directives in the Charter of the ACE is, "reports on pirate, clandestine, covert and other unexplained broadcasts." Those that have been watching this phenomenon we call "pirate radio" over the past years know that there is no one reason or answer as to why someone puts an illegal transmitter on the air. It's one of the allures to the hobby. The mystery of "WHY" they are transmitting is as much a part of our hobby as the documentation and confirmation of those transmissions. When people outside our hobby look at the ACE, they usually comment that all they see are just logs and technical stuff. They don't see or hear the excitement of hearing that first pirate transmission or share in the wonder of why an individual would risk fines and exposure for taking the risk of putting on a radio transmission. I think we can add to the mystery of the "WHY", the enforcement activities of the FCC. Why after all this time, do they go looking for Shortwave Pirates? The usual procedure is to try to seize the equipment, issue a big fine, not collect the fine, and eventually drop the charges. So let me offer the additional twist to our hobby of wondering why the FCC operates the way it does and forgo the procedure of putting it in the Charter. Are there any volunteers to write a column about FCC activity? Maybe we could call it "Charles Follies"?

VISIT THE ACE WEBSITE

www.frn.net/ace/

Happy Holidays
Pat Murphy

ASSOCIATION OF CLANDESTINE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS

P. O. Box 12112, Norfolk, VA 23541-0112

The A*C*E is an association of individuals who find pirate, clandestine and covert communications an interesting part of their radio listening hobby. The primary existence of the club revolves around the publication of a monthly bulletin, The A*C*E. The bulletin reports on pirate, clandestine, covert and other unexplained broadcasts. Also, the readers are provided with other available material concerning motives, explanations and the theories behind these various broadcasts and broadcasters. The ACE as an organization, does not encourage, support or condone any illegal activity; we simply seek to understand the nature and reasoning behind such broadcasts. If your interests include listening to pirate radio stations, clandestine broadcasts and covert communications, The A*C*E is for you!!

All subscriptions, renewals, and queries regarding subscriptions should be sent to the above club address. Contributions for each editor should be sent to their own given addresses.

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U. S. & possessions	\$21.00	MUST BE PAID IN US FUNDS
Canada/Mexico	\$26.00	OR CHECK FROM US BANK
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